## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with <u>strikethrough</u>.

Please REPLACE the paragraph starting on page 5, line 5 with the following paragraph:

The following optimization function, which is also referred to as an expanded Q-function  $\underline{Q}^{\pi}$  (x<sub>t</sub>, a<sub>t</sub>), is used in the <u>Hager-Heger</u> method: